GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HOME AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA

STARRED QUESTION NO:118
ANSWERED ON:25.02.2003
LAW TO CHECK ACTIVITIES OF PLACES OF WORSHIP
CHANDRA BHUSHAN SINGH;NEDURUMALLI JANARDHANA REDDY

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have advised all the border States to co-ordinate their intelligence gathering efforts with the Intelligence Bureau to identify places of worship indulging in anti-national activities;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Union Government are contemplating to make legislative intervention to regulate activities inside the places of worship and religious institutions;

(d) if so, the concrete measures being taken in this regard;

(e) whether the Group of Ministers have made any specific proposals in this regard after examining the Kargil Review Committee Report; and

(f) if so, the details of the recommendations accepted and implemented so far?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI I.D.SWAMI)

(a) & (b): Yes Sir. The Government have advised all border states to coordinate their intelligence gathering efforts with the lead Intelligence Agency for the concerned border for containing illegal and anti-national activities which might be taking place in places of worship and religious instruction.

(c) to (f-): The Group of Ministers in their report on `Reforming the National Security System` has, inter-alia, recommended the enactment of a legislation to regulate the construction etc. of places of worship and of religious instruction in specified border belt including the coastal belt. The Government have accepted this recommendation and the feasibility of enacting such a legislation is receiving Government`s attention.